

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. 190

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to reform the House,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 1993

Mr. ALLARD (for himself, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Mr. SANTORUM, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. EWING, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. ZELIFF, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. ZIMMER, and Mr. RAMSTAD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred jointly to the Committees on Rules and House Administration

RESOLUTION

Amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to
reform the House, and for other purposes.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT COMMITTEE STAFF RE-**
3 **DUCTION.**

4 (a) Clause 5 of rule XI of the Rules of the House
5 of Representatives is amended by redesignating para-
6 graphs (a) through (f) as paragraphs (b) through (g), re-
7 spectively, and by inserting at the beginning the following
8 new paragraph:

1 “(a)(1) It shall not be in order in the House to con-
2 sider any primary expense resolution for the second ses-
3 sion of this Congress until the Committee on House Ad-
4 ministration has reported, and the House has adopted, a
5 resolution establishing an overall ceiling for House com-
6 mittee staff personnel for that year, and any such resolu-
7 tion shall be privileged.

8 “(2) In developing any primary expense resolution,
9 the Committee on House Administration shall specify in
10 the resolution the number of staff positions authorized by
11 the resolution. The committee shall verify in the report
12 accompanying any such primary expense resolution that
13 the number of staff positions authorized by such resolution
14 is in conformity with the overall ceiling on such positions
15 established by the House.

16 “(3) In no event shall the total number of additional
17 staff positions authorized by all such primary expense res-
18 olutions, taken together with the number of staff positions
19 authorized by clause 6 of this rule (providing for profes-
20 sional and clerical staff), exceed the ceiling established by
21 the House for that year.

22 “(4) In allocating staff positions pursuant to the
23 overall ceiling established by the House, the committee
24 shall take into account the past and anticipated legislative
25 and oversight activities of each committee.

1 “(5) In any supplemental expense resolution, and in
2 any amendment thereto, the committee shall specify the
3 number of additional staff positions, if any, authorized by
4 such resolution, and shall indicate in the report accom-
5 panying any such resolution whether the additional staff
6 positions are in conformity with or exceed the overall ceil-
7 ing established by the House.

8 “(6) For the purposes of the second session of this
9 Congress, the overall ceiling for committee staff in a reso-
10 lution reported by the committee pursuant to subpara-
11 graph (1), or contained in any amendment thereto, shall
12 not exceed 75 percent of the total committee staff person-
13 nel employed at the end of the One Hundred Second
14 Congress.”.

15 (b) The Committee on House Administration shall
16 have the authority to prescribe regulations to carry out
17 the amendment made by subsection (a).

18 **SEC. 2. EQUITABLE PARTY RATIOS IN COMMITTEES.**

19 (a) Clause 6(a) of rule X of the Rules of the House
20 of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the
21 following new subparagraph:

22 “(3) Except for the Committee on Standards of Offi-
23 cial Conduct and the bipartisan Subcommittee on Admin-
24 istrative Oversight of the Committee on House Adminis-
25 tration, the membership of each committee and each sub-

1 committee thereof shall reflect the ratio of the majority
2 to minority party Members of the House at the beginning
3 of the Congress.”.

4 (b) Clause 6(f) of rule X of the Rules of the House
5 of Representatives is amended by inserting after the first
6 sentence the following new sentence: “The membership of
7 each such select committee (and of any subcommittee
8 thereof) and of each such conference committee shall re-
9 flect the ratio of the majority to minority party Members
10 of the House at the time of its appointment.”.

11 (c) Clause 6 of rule XI of the Rules of the House
12 of Representatives is amended by adding at the end the
13 following new paragraph:

14 “(j) The ratio of the majority staff to minority staff
15 of each committee shall be the same as the ratio of major-
16 ity party members to minority party members on that
17 committee.”.

18 **SEC. 3. ELIMINATION OF PROXY VOTING IN COMMITTEES.**

19 Clause 2(f) of rule XI of the Rules of the House of
20 Representatives is amended to read as follows:

21 “(f) No vote by any member of any committee or sub-
22 committee with respect to any measure or matter may be
23 cast by proxy.”.

1 **SEC. 4. MULTIPLE REFERRAL OF LEGISLATION.**

2 Clause 5(c) of rule X of the Rules of the House of
3 Representatives is amended to read as follows:

4 “(c) In carrying out paragraphs (a) and (b) with re-
5 spect to any matter, the Speaker shall initially refer the
6 matter to one committee which he shall designate as the
7 committee of principal jurisdiction; but he may also refer
8 the matter to one or more additional committees for con-
9 sideration in sequence (subject to appropriate time limita-
10 tions), either on its initial referral or after the matter has
11 been reported by the committee of principal jurisdiction;
12 or refer portions of the matter to one or more additional
13 committees (reflecting different subjects and jurisdic-
14 tions) for the exclusive consideration of such portion or
15 portions.”.

16 **SEC. 5. QUORUM REQUIREMENT FOR MARK-UPS.**

17 (a) Clause 2(h)(2) of rule XI of the Rules of the
18 House of Representatives is amended by striking “one-
19 third” and inserting “one-half”.

20 (b) Clause 2(l)(2)(A) of rule XI of the Rules of the
21 House of Representatives is amended—

22 (1) by striking “present,” and all that follows
23 through the period at the end and inserting
24 “present.”; and

25 (2) by adding at the end the following new
26 sentence: “Upon the request of any member of the

1 committee, the chair shall order a rollcall vote on a
 2 motion to report any bill or resolution of a public
 3 character.”.

4 **SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON LENGTH OF SERVICE ON ANY COM-**
 5 **MITTEE.**

6 Clause 6 of rule X of the Rules of the House of Rep-
 7 resentatives is amended by inserting at the end the follow-
 8 ing new paragraph:

9 “(i)(1) No Member shall serve as chairman of any
 10 committee for more than 3 Congresses.

11 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1)—

12 “(A) any service performed as chairman of any
 13 committee for less than a full session in any Con-
 14 gress shall be disregarded; and

15 “(B) previous service on any committee before
 16 the One Hundred Fourth Congress shall be dis-
 17 regarded.”.

18 **SEC. 7. OPEN COMMITTEE MEETINGS.**

19 The first sentence of clause 2(g)(1) of rule XI of the
 20 Rules of the House of Representatives is amended—

21 (1) by inserting “, with at least two-thirds of
 22 the members voting in the affirmative,” after “roll-
 23 call vote”; and

24 (2) by inserting “because disclosure of matters
 25 to be considered involves the national security, per-

1 sonnel information, or a criminal investigation” after
2 “closed to the public”.

3 **SEC. 8. REQUIREMENT THAT BILLS AND CONFERENCE RE-**
4 **PORTS BE AVAILABLE BEFORE VOTES ON**
5 **FINAL PASSAGE.**

6 The last sentence of clause 4(b) of rule XI of the
7 Rules of the House of Representatives is further amended
8 by inserting before the period at the end the following:
9 “; nor shall it waive the applicability of clause 2(l)(6) (re-
10 specting the three-day layover rule) or clause 2 of rule
11 XVIII (respecting the printing of conference reports and
12 statements and their availability) unless so determined by
13 the Committee on Rules by a vote of at least two-thirds
14 of its members voting”.

15 **SEC. 9. STRENGTHENING OF GERMANENESS REQUIRE-**
16 **MENT.**

17 The last sentence of clause 4(b) of rule XI of the
18 Rules of the House of Representatives is further amended
19 by inserting before the period at the end the following:
20 “; nor shall it waive the applicability of clause 7 of rule
21 XVI (respecting germane amendments) unless so deter-
22 mined by the Committee on Rules by a vote of at least
23 two-thirds of its members voting”.

1 **SEC. 10. MODIFIED OPEN RULES.**

2 The last sentence of clause 4(b) of rule XI of the
3 Rules of the House of Representatives (as amended by sec-
4 tion 7) is further amended by inserting before the period
5 the following: “; nor shall it report any rule or order which
6 does not allow minority party members to offer at least
7 4 amendments to any bill or resolution making appropria-
8 tions or to a concurrent resolution on the budget”.

9 **SEC. 11. PROHIBITION OF UNAUTHORIZED APPROPRIA-**
10 **TIONS.**

11 The last sentence of clause 4(b) of rule XI of the
12 Rules of the House of Representatives (as amended by sec-
13 tions 7 and 8) is amended by inserting before the period
14 the following: “; nor shall it report any rule or order which
15 waives the requirement of clause 2(a) of rule XXI (re-
16 specting unauthorized appropriations) unless so deter-
17 mined by the Committee on Rules by a vote of at least
18 two-thirds of its members voting”.

19 **SEC. 12. PROHIBITION OF COMMEMORATIVE BILLS.**

20 Rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representa-
21 tives is amended by adding at the end the following new
22 clause:

23 “8. It shall not be in order in the House to consider
24 any bill or resolution providing for the designation of a
25 commemorative day or other commemorative period.”.

1 **SEC. 13. PERIODIC REAUTHORIZATION OF CONGRES-**
2 **SIONAL AGENCIES.**

3 (a) Not later than the end of the first session of the
4 One Hundred Third Congress, the appropriate committees
5 of the House shall report legislation requiring periodic re-
6 authorization of the entities listed in subsection (b) over
7 which they have jurisdiction. The period for reauthoriza-
8 tion may not in any case exceed 5 years.

9 (b) The following entities are subject to periodic reau-
10 thorization under this section: Architect of the Capitol,
11 United States Botanical Garden, Congressional Budget
12 Office, Government Printing Office, General Accounting
13 Office, Library of Congress, Copyright Royalty Tribunal,
14 and Office of Technology Assessment.

15 **SEC. 14. TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR PUBLIC IN-**
16 **QUIRES RELATING TO BILL STATUS.**

17 The Committee on House Administration shall take
18 such action as may be necessary to establish a toll-free
19 (800) telephone number to provide public access to infor-
20 mation on the substance and present status of each bill
21 and resolution that is before the House of Representatives.

22 **SEC. 15. COMPUTER ACCESS FOR PUBLIC INQUIRES RELAT-**
23 **ING TO BILL STATUS.**

24 The Committee on House Administration shall take
25 such action as may be necessary to establish a computer
26 accessible data base to provide public access to informa-

1 tion on the substance and present status of each bill and
2 resolution that is before the House of Representatives.
3 The data base shall be (1) supported solely by fees charged
4 for the access provided, and (2) made available to the pub-
5 lic at cost, on a fee-for-service basis, with all revenues
6 dedicated to the establishment, maintenance, and oper-
7 ation of the data base.

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